

Message Text

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ACTION AGR-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 /023 W

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P 270405Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1393

INFO: RUEHBAC/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 1358

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT MORESBY 0387

PASS USDA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, EAGR, ETRD, PP

SUBJECT: CURRENT RICE PRICE QUOTATIONS

REF: PORT MORESBY 114, AUGUST 16, 1974.

1. SPEAKER OF NATIONAL PARLIAMENT, BARRY HOLLOWAY. INFORMED E/COFF APRIL 27 THAT HE UNDERSTOOD US WEST COAST RICE PRICES WERE NOW EXTREMELY COMPETITIVE AS OPPOSED TO AUSTRALIAN RICE. PAPUA NEW GUINEA IMPORTS APPROXIMATELY 50,000 TONS A YEAR FROM AUSTRALIA, BUT WITH INCREASING FREIGHT RATES (A 12 0/0 INCREASE WAS ANNOUNCED APRIL 28) PNG IS LOOKING TO OTHER SOURCES.

2. RICE RECEIVED HERE IS NORMALLY WHITE RICE, 20 0/0 BROKEN IN 25 KILO BAGS, AND VITAMIN ENRICHED. WE WOULD LIKE PRICE QUOTE FOR THIS AND BULK SHIPMENT AS WELL. ALL RICE MUST BE VITAMIN ENRICHED.

3. ALLAN TEICHER, FARRELL LINES, IS PRESENTLY IN PORT MORESBY AND HE TOLD E/COFF THAT WE SHOULD PERSONALLY CONTACT CAPT. RAYMOND BALLARD, VICE PRESIDENT WEST COAST AT ONE EMBARCADERO CENTER, ROOM 701, SAN FRANCISCO, FOR SPECIAL BARGE RATE. TEICHER BELIEVES THAT FARRELL CAN QUOTE TRANSPORT CHARGE AT FRACTION OF GOING RATE AND IS VERY KEEN TO CARRY RICE SHIPMENTS AT THIS TIME TO LAE.

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4. ACTION REQUESTED: PLS CONTACT RICE GROWERS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA, SACRAMENTO, PHONE: (916) 371-6941 FOR CURRENT PRICE QUOTATIONS FOR FOB PRICES AND ALSO CONTACT CAPT. BALLARD FOR FREIGHT RATES. IF RFAC WISHES TO QUOTE CIF PRICES FOR BULK RATE, PLEASE HAVE THEM CONTACT BALLARD SO THAT WE DO NOT RECEIVE INFLATED FREIGHT RATE FACTORED INTO FINAL COST FIGURES. (FYI: IN RGAC LETTER OF AUGUST 26, 1974, THEY QUOTED METRIC TON TRANSPORT COSTS OF US \$200.00. TEICHER SAID HE BELIEVED FARRELL COULD CARRY RICE FOR A QUARTER OF THAT RATE. END FYU.)

5. HOLLOWAY BELIEVES IF US MOVES QUICKLY IT WILL BE ABLE TO PENETRATE THIS MARKET WHICH UP TO NOW HAS BEEN PRIVATE PRESERVE OF AUSTRALIAN GROWERS.
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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